

## House Resolution 1805

By: Representative Benfield of the 85<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Coach William "Buck" Godfrey; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Coach William "Buck" Godfrey has long been recognized for his superior  
3 coaching skills, his dedication to challenging the future leaders of Georgia, and his incredible  
4 devotion to his players; and

5 WHEREAS, Coach Godfrey is the beloved eldest son of the late William H. Godfrey, Sr.,  
6 and Octavia S. Godfrey and graduated from Burke High School; and

7 WHEREAS, he earned a bachelor's degree from Delaware State University, where he was  
8 captain of the football and baseball teams, named All Conference in both sports, and was the  
9 C.I.A.A. Batting Champion in 1965 with a batting average of .511; and

10 WHEREAS, a Golden Gloves boxer in New York City, Coach Godfrey holds a master's  
11 degree in English from Atlanta University, where he finished a thesis in linguistics, and has  
12 authored three books, *Moods of a Black Man*, *Songs for my Father*, and *The Team that*  
13 *Nobody Would Play*; and

14 WHEREAS, he diligently and conscientiously dedicated his time, talents, and energy for 27  
15 years to challenging athletes to achieve their utmost potential with the football program at  
16 Southwest DeKalb High School, serving as a coach with the school since 1983 and amassing  
17 250 wins; and

18 WHEREAS, during his tenure as a coach with the Panthers, his teams earned national  
19 rankings five times, made playoff appearances in 24 seasons, and had four undefeated regular  
20 seasons; and

21 WHEREAS, Coach Godfrey coached the 1995 State Champions and has averaged 9.2 wins  
22 per year, with a winning ratio of 76 percent, and stands as the winningest coach in DeKalb  
23 County Schools; and

24 WHEREAS, during his tenure with Southwest DeKalb High School, the football program  
25 has earned two North Georgia Championship titles and 13 Region Championship titles, and  
26 he was named DeKalb County Coach of the Year five times; and

27 WHEREAS, a 1995 State Coach of the Year recipient, Coach Godfrey brings out the superior  
28 athletic ability of his players and serves as a role model and mentor to his teams, sending 253  
29 players to college on football scholarships, with 186 of them earning a degree; and

30 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this  
31 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
33 the members of this body recognize Coach William "Buck" Godfrey for his decades of  
34 service to the future leaders of this state and commend his commitment to the  
35 student-athletes of DeKalb County.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
37 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Coach William "Buck"  
38 Godfrey.